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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

Letter dated 8 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I am pleased to follow up on my letter dated 17 January 2006 informing you about the decision by the Government of Egypt to present its candidature for one of the seven positions reserved for members of the General Assembly in the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission pursuant to paragraph 4 (e) of General Assembly resolution 60/180, adopted on 20 December 2005.

In the light of the decision taken by the General Assembly this afternoon on resolution 60/261, whereby the Assembly decided to allocate two seats for African States from among the seven seats designated for election by the General Assembly, I wish to reiterate and reconfirm the decision by the Government of Egypt to present its candidature for one of the two seats allocated to African States.

As you are aware, Egypt has played a leading role over the past few years in bringing the attention of the international community, particularly the United Nations community, to the institutional gap in addressing post-conflict peacebuilding by calling for a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to "peace" that would necessarily address the root causes of conflicts, especially in Africa, including through measures to support sustainable development and poverty alleviation policies. To this end, Egypt welcomed the proposal for establishing the Peacebuilding Commission and has actively participated, through the African Group and the General Assembly, in the various stages of its substantive and institutional conceptualization, including during the most recent consultations leading to the consensus adoption by the Assembly of resolution 60/261 on election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Commission.

The commitment and effort by Egypt in the course of negotiations leading to the creation of this new and highly significant United Nations body stemmed from the fact that it has successfully emerged from over two decades of one of the most difficult and destructive regional conflicts in the world towards recovery, reconstruction and economic development. Meanwhile, following four wars, in

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1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973, Egypt is now actively involved in peacemaking efforts in Africa and the Middle East by taking several political initiatives and by providing technical expertise in the areas of negotiations and international law application.

Additionally, Egypt has contributed to the best of its ability to most United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide, particularly in Africa, as well as in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Similar efforts are ongoing and under way in Burundi, Liberia, Somalia, Iraq and the Palestinian territories. To this end, Egypt has restructured the activities of its long-standing Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa to meet the evolving post-conflict and reconstruction needs of its African sister countries emerging from conflict, particularly in the areas of security sector reform, training, reintegration of former combatants, health, education and infrastructure development, in addition to other measures aimed at avoiding the relapse into conflict by African countries emerging from conflict.

The experience accumulated during the course of emerging from regional armed struggle over the past 30 years, as well as the determination shown through active involvement in various post-conflict situations in Africa and the Middle East, are believed to be important assets for a meaningful contribution to the envisaged activities of the Peacebuilding Commission. As Egypt believes in the essential role of regional partners in supporting international efforts aimed at ensuring sustainable peace in post-conflict situations, it equally believes that the composition of the Peacebuilding Commission, in general and in country-specific formats, must largely be supported by countries with recognized political and technical expertise capable of contributing to building sustainable peace in the countries under consideration.

The Government of Egypt would highly appreciate it if you would have the aforementioned candidature duly noted by the General Assembly in preparation for the upcoming election of seven Member States from the General Assembly to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, and if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Maged **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative